

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 7, and 9 as set forth in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) An electronic settlement system for allowing payment for a purchase from a virtual shop on a network by a purchaser using a terminal connected to said network, comprising:

a paying method presenting unit ~~which, when said shop receives~~ means for receiving a verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, ~~sends~~ sending a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement unit ~~which makes~~ means for making a settlement via said network for a purchase price when prepaid electronic money is bought on behalf of said purchaser; and

an electronic money purchasing unit ~~which, when~~ means for receiving an instruction to buy said set amount of prepaid electronic money ~~is received~~ from said purchaser via said terminal, ~~purchases~~ purchasing said set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network on behalf of said purchaser aided by said settlement unit, and ~~notifies~~ notifying said purchaser of an identification number allocated to the prepaid electronic money that has been purchased and ~~reports~~ reporting a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein a prepaid electronic money company and a settlement institution of said

prepaid electronic money are connected to said network, and said settlement unit means purchases said prepaid electronic money from said prepaid electronic money company and makes a settlement of a payment charge of said prepaid electronic money with said settlement institution.

3. (currently amended) A system according to claim 2, wherein said settlement unit means makes the settlement in accordance with an SET (Secure Electronic Transactions).

4. (currently amended) A system according to claim 3, wherein a wallet service providing company for providing an electronic wallet is connected to said network, and said settlement unit means makes the settlement by using said electronic wallet.

5. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said settlement is a debit settlement using the Internet.

6. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said settlement is a credit settlement using the Internet.

7. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said paying method presenting unit means, said electronic money purchasing unit means, and said settlement unit means are provided for said virtual shop.

8. (previously presented) A computer readable medium that stores a control program for an electronic settlement in an electronic settlement system for allowing payment for a purchase from a virtual shop on a network by a purchaser using a terminal connected to said network, wherein said control program allows a computer to execute:

a paying method presenting step which, when said shop receives verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, sends a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement step which makes a settlement via said network for a purchase price when prepaid electronic money is bought on behalf of said purchaser; and

an electronic money purchasing step which, when an instruction to buy said set amount of prepaid electronic money is received from said purchaser via said terminal, purchases said set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network on behalf of said purchaser in conjunction with said settlement step, and notifies said purchaser of an identification number allocated to the prepaid type electronic money that has been purchased and reports a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.

9. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the identification number is received by the electronic money purchasing unit means when the set amount of prepaid electronic money is purchased, and the electronic money purchasing unit means performs a subtraction operation on the basis of the identification number to determine the balance remaining.